

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd September 1900.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.			
The Indian celebration of the Sultan's Jubilee ...	727		
The grievances of the Persian pilgrims to Mecca ...	ib.		
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.			
(a)—Police—			
Thefts in Mymensingh town ...	ib.		
The police in the Mymensingh case ...	ib.		
The police and the public peace ...	ib.		
Visit to Tibet prohibited ...	728		
Chaukidari tax in a village in the Midnapore district ...	ib.		
A complaint against the Calcutta Mounted Police ...	ib.		
(b)—Working of the Courts—			
The Mymensingh <i>Sannyasi's</i> case ...	ib.		
Magistrates, Native and European ...	729		
The peons' petition against the District Judge of Murshidabad ...	730		
The <i>Kalidas</i> case ...	ib.		
The Dinapore case ...	ib.		
The Munda case ...	731		
Dilatoriness in the Kushtia Munsif's Court ...	ib.		
(c)—Jails—			
Nil.			
(d)—Education—			
The Kushtia College ...	ib.		
The Central Text-Book Committee ...	ib.		
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—			
Municipal complaints ...	ib.		
A complaint against a pound-keeper ...	ib.		
A ferry ghât complaint ...	ib.		
The North Barrackpore Municipality ...	732		
The Calcutta Municipality ...	ib.		
(f)—Questions affecting the land—			
Midnapore Khas Mahal grievances ...	733		
		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
		A bad road in the Noakhali district ...	733
		A road closed against public traffic ...	ib.
		Repair of a road and construction of two bridges wanted in the Khulna district ...	734
		A complaint against the Assam-Bengal Railway ...	ib.
		Railway complaints ...	ib.
		A railway complaint ...	ib.
		(h)—General—	
		Mr. K. G. Gupta's rumoured appointment to a Commissionership ...	ib.
		The Collector of Calcutta ...	ib.
		III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
		Nil.	
		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
		Lord Curzon's proposed visit to Travancore ...	735
		Travel by Native Chiefs ...	ib.
		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
		Crop prospects in Chittagong ...	736
		Crop prospects in the Nadia district ...	ib.
		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
		Nil.	
		URIYA PAPERS.	
		A merchant's famine advance to Bombay weavers ...	ib.
		Inconvenient school hours in Sambalpur ...	ib.
		Uriya in the F. A. and B. A. Examinations of the Calcutta University ...	ib.
		Bengal silk in the Paris Exhibition ...	ib.
		Famine contribution from Lord Curzon's father ...	ib.
		Travel by Native Chiefs ...	ib.
		Salt manufacture in Parikud, as a famine preventive ...	ib.
		A breach on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway ...	737
		The Maharaja of Jodhpur's expedition to China ...	ib.
		The Bharatpur deposition ...	ib.
		The Cawnpore sentence ...	ib.
		The proposed Commission to enquire into the land assessment of the Western Presidency ...	ib.
		The death of Kumar Harihar Nath Pandit ...	ib.
		The circular prohibiting the fining of clerks in Government offices ...	ib.
		A complaint by a Police Constable dismissed ...	ib.
		The <i>sarbarakar</i> of mauza Bhaskarpur dispossessed of his tenure ...	738
		ASSAM PAPERS.	
		Nil.	

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK

During the year 1911 the following work has been done:

1. The first part of the work has been the collection of material.

2. The second part of the work has been the examination of the material.

3. The third part of the work has been the preparation of the report.

4. The fourth part of the work has been the publication of the report.

5. The fifth part of the work has been the distribution of the report.

6. The sixth part of the work has been the collection of material.

7. The seventh part of the work has been the examination of the material.

8. The eighth part of the work has been the preparation of the report.

9. The ninth part of the work has been the publication of the report.

10. The tenth part of the work has been the distribution of the report.

11. The eleventh part of the work has been the collection of material.

12. The twelfth part of the work has been the examination of the material.

13. The thirteenth part of the work has been the preparation of the report.

14. The fourteenth part of the work has been the publication of the report.

15. The fifteenth part of the work has been the distribution of the report.

16. The sixteenth part of the work has been the collection of material.

17. The seventeenth part of the work has been the examination of the material.

18. The eighteenth part of the work has been the preparation of the report.

19. The nineteenth part of the work has been the publication of the report.

20. The twentieth part of the work has been the distribution of the report.

21. The twenty-first part of the work has been the collection of material.

22. The twenty-second part of the work has been the examination of the material.

23. The twenty-third part of the work has been the preparation of the report.

24. The twenty-fourth part of the work has been the publication of the report.

25. The twenty-fifth part of the work has been the distribution of the report.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Roznam-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 10th September is glad that the Shias of Bombay have celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the Sultan of Turkey on a grand scale. At a meeting held in that connection in a Shia *musjid*, they expressed their satisfaction that a friendly relation existed between Turkey and Persia.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Sept. 10th, 1900.

2. A correspondent of the same paper is sorry that the Persian pilgrims, who last year went to Mecca, had to pay exorbitant prices for what they bought and hired. In some cases they had to submit to extortion. It is said that the Persian Consul at Jeddah was at the root of all this. It is hoped that the Persian Government will direct its attention to this matter.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKA-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 11th September complains of the prevalence of theft in Mymensingh town and of the inability of the police to trace the offenders. Lately several thefts were committed, one of them being in the house of Babu Hem Chandra Ghosh, in front of which a constable keeps watch every night. All this does not speak well of the Mymensingh town police.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 11th, 1900.

4. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 12th September has the following with reference to the decision of the Calcutta High Court in the Mymensingh case, in which one Brahmanath, a *sannyasi*, was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment by the District Magistrate:—

PRABHAT,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

Brahmanath has been acquitted, but is there nothing to learn in this case, which created such an agitation and over which so much money has been spent? It is clear from this case that a police constable may, at his pleasure, haul up a man before a court of justice—be he rich or poor, be he an *amir* or *fakir*. Moreover, the police has the wonderful knack of manufacturing evidence and getting up witnesses. It has, so to say, the magical power of making night appear as day. The Magistrate, again, generally sympathises with the police and shuts his eyes at the law. Were it not for the High Court, innocent people would not be saved from the clutches of their oppressors. But this is not all. There is another lesson to be learnt from this case. It is this: oppressive police officers are not punished even when their conduct is strongly commented upon in a higher court of justice. The poor *sannyasi* was causelessly harassed and persecuted, but those who harassed and persecuted him are proud of their achievement. It is too much to hope that offending police officers will be departmentally punished.

5. The *Kangal* [Cooch Behar] of the 12th September has the following:—

KANGAL,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

The police and the public peace. Let us consider how the administration of the country is being conducted under British rule. Do the English rulers still evince that zeal and enthusiasm in maintaining the public peace as they used to do in the past? Perhaps the question will be answered in the affirmative, and the increase of the police force, the enhancement of the pay of the police officers, and the admission of educated men into the police service will be pointed out as proofs of the zeal and enthusiasm of the British Government in putting down crime.

Facts, however, go to point to a different conclusion. We shall show that the police officers are not very anxious to maintain the public peace. To detect and punish an offender seems to be the only object of the keepers of the public peace. It does not appear to be the object of the police to prevent the commission of crime, to exterminate crime, root and branch, in order to enable the public to live in undisturbed peace.

The work of detecting and punishing crime is not also being satisfactorily done. Dacoities and thefts are being committed. The chastity of women is being violated. But in how many instances is the crime being detected and

punished? It is true that the lawlessness and anarchy, which prevailed in the country half a century ago, do not prevail now. But is the police to be given any credit for this?

Certainly not. There are two things which have done more than anything else to maintain the peace in the country. These are the steamer and the railroad. Before the steam-engine was introduced into the country, people had to go on foot from one place to another. This gave dacoits and robbers ample opportunities to carry on their nefarious practices. People were stopped and murdered on the highway in broad daylight, and the dead bodies were carried from one village to another, and thus sent away to a distant place. Nowadays, however, people can travel by rail or by steamer in perfect security from one end of the country to the other. Take away the railroad and the steamer, and the old order of things will be restored. Offence on the Queen's highway has been removed, but crime is in full swing in the villages. Why cannot the police put down this crime?

HITAVADI,
Sept. 14th, 1900.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th September writes as follows:—

Visit to Tibet prohibited.

Since the outbreak of the China war, the visits of foreigners to Tibet have been prohibited by the Government of India. Lately, an Austrian lady of the name of Madame Newtzbocher had been going to Tibet *via* Darjeeling, but she has been stopped by the Indian police under official instructions and sent to the Austrian Consul. She had been told that Tibet was a holy land, and that one could see God there. Fired with a religious enthusiasm, this European lady was trudging on barefooted to Tibet from Darjeeling. But she has been disappointed. We do not know whether any political question is involved in this incident, but this devout lady's holy intention has been frustrated. Political necessity, of course, justifies everything; otherwise the arrest of an innocent person by the police would be a serious matter. We do not know whether we have committed any offence by disclosing this news, but we hope the authorities will excuse us.

HITAVADI.

7. A correspondent complains in the same paper of the pressure of the

Chaukidari tax in a village in the Midnapore district.

chaukidari tax at Dor Krishnagar, a village in the Midnapore district, within the jurisdiction of the Midnapore Khas Mahals. Formerly, the chaukidars enjoyed 4 *bighas* of *chakran* land each for their services. The Government deprived them of these *chakran* lands, and used to pay them Rs. 2 each from the public exchequer. Lately, the pay of a chaukidar has been raised from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4, and the Government has imposed the whole burden on the people. This year the expense on account of the chaukidars is going to be still further increased by the appointment of *dafadars*. Why has the kind-hearted Lieutenant-Governor imposed such a heavy burden on the shoulders of poor people? Let the *chakran* lands be restored to the chaukidars. That will cause no appreciable loss to the Government, but will relieve poor people of a heavy burden of taxation.

NASRATUL ISLAM,
Sept. 14th, 1900.

8. The *Nasratul Islam* [Calcutta] of the 14th September writes that

A complaint against the Calcutta Mounted Police.

the conduct of the Calcutta Mounted Police towards bullock-cart and hackney-carriage drivers deserves the special notice of the Police Commissioner of Calcutta. It has often been observed that these mounted constables generally charge with the obstruction of public thoroughfares such bullock-cart and hackney-carriage drivers as refuse to bribe them. On the strength of the deposition of the police, the Presidency Magistrate inflicts punishment upon the poor drivers.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

9. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 11th September says that

The Mymensingh *Sannyasi's* case.

the case which the Mymensingh police brought against Brahmanath *Sannyasi* has resulted in the acquittal by the High Court. The disclosure of the inhuman high-handedness of the police which took place in the course of this case is nothing new, and the case would have been forgotten by this time, if the Magistrate had not brought about a failure of justice in deciding it. The Magistrate's decision in the case had, in fact, alarmed

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 11th, 1900.

the people of Mymensingh. It will be remembered that both the case in which the *Sannyasi* was the complainant and that in which he was the defendant and the police were the complainants were both of them instituted before a Deputy Magistrate. The sudden transfer of the two cases to the District Magistrate's file led the public to arrive at the foregone conclusion that the *Sannyasi* would be punished. This belief was confirmed in the public mind when the District Superintendent of Police was seen in a room of the Court-house during the trial of the case against Brahmanath. The result showed that the public were not mistaken. It is now quite clear why the Magistrate first took up the case against Brahmanath instead of the case in which he was the complainant, and the fact of the Magistrate's having done this is a clear proof that the Magistrate is always biased in favour of the police. Failures of justice like that which took place in this case will not cease so long as the judicial and executive functions are combined in the same officer.

In disposing of the appeal against the Magistrate's decision, the District Judge held that the place where the incident occurred was not a public place, but practically upheld the Magistrate's decision and referred the case to the High Court only for reduction of the sentence. The High Court decided that section 34 of the Police Act was not applicable to the case, and thus in some measure removed the fear of the Mymensingh public that the Magistrate's decision would increase police oppression in Mymensingh.

If partiality for the police can lead District Magistrates to commit injustice, it is no wonder that failure of justice in cases like the above should take place oftener in the hands of Deputy Magistrates.

10. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 11th September has the following:—

Magistrates, Native and European.

There is a good deal of difference between a Native and a European Magistrate. A Native Magistrate always tries his best to keep his European official superiors in humour. He has very little occasion to act independently, to express his opinions independently, or to administer justice independently. In whatever he may have to do or say, he looks up to his superiors for guidance and instructions. It is the first and foremost care of a Native Magistrate to please his European superiors and not to consult the convenience or inconvenience of the public. Not so a European Magistrate. He is superior to a Native Magistrate in this respect. He is in the habit of being guided by his conscience.

The Native clerks and muharrirs consider it more advantageous to serve under a European than under a Native Magistrate. Honest and faithful service under a European Magistrate is sure to secure an employé rapid promotion. A Native Magistrate does not and cannot recognise merit in a subordinate. Good service does not ensure promotion; bad service does not bring about dismissal.

This is how a Native Magistrate would do his duty. A Native Subdivisional Officer is informed that a plague riot is going on close by and the police is unable to put it down. Smoking his hubble-bubble leisurely and unwilling to leave his couch of ease, the Subdivisional Officer sends for the Inspector. It takes the Native Inspector some time to respond to the call. At last he comes and is ordered to go to the scene of the riot. A weak-hearted Bengali, ignorant of the use of arms, and depending upon his solitary stick as the only weapon of offence and defence, the Inspector pleads his inability to meet a riotous mob, numbering three or four hundred, with a few constables. He proposes to let the riot take its course, and arrest some people, when, seeing some deaths take place, the rioters themselves will take to their heels in a panic. The Subdivisional Officer accepts this excellent proposal, and delays the communication of the news to the District Magistrate.

Look on that picture and on this: The European Subdivisional Officer has sat down to dinner when he is informed that a gang of dacoits have broken into a house. He puts off his dinner, arms himself with a sword and a pistol, mounts his horse, and off goes he, darting like a shooting star, to the scene of occurrence. He wounds some dacoits and puts the rest to flight.

A candidate for the Deputy Magistrateship Examination has to produce a riding certificate. He secures this certificate somehow or other at the time of the examination, and there the matter ends. How many Bengali Deputy

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Sept. 11th, 1900.

Magistrates are in the habit of riding during active service? If a Bengali Deputy Magistrate keeps a horse, that horse is only fit for being sent to the *Pinjrapole*—a jaded, broken-down, lean and lanky animal. A Deputy Magistrate generally travels on the back of an elephant like a zamindar's *naib*, or in a palanquin like a newly-married bride, or in a bullock-cart like a patient. To walk a few miles is to him an impossible and impracticable achievement. Native Magistrates have the privilege of keeping arms without a license, but they do not keep arms. They are never in the habit of promoting the safety of the public by destroying wild animals. Not so European Magistrates.

There are no doubt ideal Native Magistrates, but they are as few as stars in a cloudy sky.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

11. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 12th September says that the petition which has been submitted to the Chief Justice of the High Court by the peons of the Murshidabad District Judge's Court against the Judge is overdrawn in many particulars, but it also contains complaints which are not groundless. As the District Judge made the peons work as orderlies in his house under the wrong impression that they were bound to do such work under the conditions of their service, and as he discontinued the practice as soon as he found out his mistake, no more fuss ought to be made over the matter.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

12. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th September has the following with reference to the prosecution of the *Kalidas* newspaper of Benares:—

The editor of the *Kalidas* newspaper is evidently in great danger. But the all-powerful Government ought to temper justice with mercy and let off the accused with a warning. We say nothing about the merits of the case, but the public expect from a powerful Government manifestation of mercy at every step. Such mercy certainly enhances the prestige of the Government.

PRABHAT,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

13. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 12th September writes as follows with reference to the case in which one Babu Jan charged one Jugudi and another with theft and assault:—

It appears from the depositions of Babu Jan that she gave three different versions of the case in three different places. Her deposition before the head-constable of the Maner thana differed from her deposition before the investigating police officer, and both these depositions differed from her deposition before the Magistrate. Such discrepancies ought to have led to the dismissal of the case, but Babu Jan was supported by the Cantonment Magistrate, and the discrepancies were ignored. The Cantonment Magistrate personally investigated the case and then took it up for disposal, although he had no jurisdiction to try it. He forgot that such procedure was illegal.

Strangely enough, the Government Pleader conducted the case on Babu Jan's behalf. What was more strange, he expressed his intention not to press the case against the boy, Swarup, who was charged with attempted murder. This is somewhat suspicious. The pleader for the defence applied to the Court for permission to produce the Cantonment Magistrate, Mr. Campbell, Inspector of Police, and the Assistant Medical Officer of the Maner Hospital as witnesses, but the application was rejected. It is, however, the general impression that many mysteries would have leaked out if these officers had been examined.

The Court did not enquire into Babu Jan's moral character or into the allegation that on the day in question, Babu Jan was intoxicated and crying out "দাওয়াই হোভে" (I shall give you plague medicines). The Deputy Magistrate, who tried the case, questioned the veracity of most of the prosecution witnesses, and admitted that there were discrepancies in the deposition of the complainant. Yet the accused was convicted. The following appears in the judgment:—

"The highest punishment provided for an offence under section 352, Indian Penal Code (simple assault), is an imprisonment of three months besides fine. The accused has been in *hajut* since April last, and this has been a sort of punishment to him." Yet, the accused has been sentenced to two months'

imprisonment, and the Government is said to have the intention of moving the High Court for an enhancement of the punishment.

14. Referring to the decision of the Calcutta High Court, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th September hopes that the

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 15th, 1900.

The Munda case.

kind-hearted Lieutenant Governor will take pity on the poor Mundas and accept the High Court's recommendation for mercy. Birsa Bhagavan, who was the cause of the disturbance, is dead. Let the Government be as kind as God and take pity on Birsa's followers and disciples.

15. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 16th September complains of the

HITAKARI,
Sept. 16th, 1900.

Dilatoriness in the Kushtia
Munsif's Court.

dilatoriness of the Munsifs of Kushtia. They allow petty rent suits to remain pending even for thirteen or fourteen months. This means harassing postponements and ruinous cost to the litigants. There are two permanent and one additional Munsifs in Kushtia. If the work is too heavy for them, the number of Munsifs should be increased, but litigants should not be harassed in this way.

(d)—Education.

16. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 16th September regrets to understand

HITAKARI,
Sept. 16th, 1900.

The Kushtia College.

that the Government has declined to grant any aid to the Kushtia School, if the school fund or the services of a school teacher are utilised for the purpose of the College. The College authorities sanguinely counted upon the surplus of the school fund, but they have been disappointed. They will perhaps have to do without Government aid. It is, however, hoped that the Inspector of the Presidency Circle will not do any injury to the prospects of the College.

17. The *Sign Board* [Calcutta] of the 18th September writes that

SIGN BOARD,
Sept. 18th, 1900.

The Central Text-Book Com-
mittee.

according to a rule of the Central Text-Book Committee, the names of its members are not to be divulged to a writer of text-books. What this and the other rules are no one knows and can know, for the Committee never condescends to acquaint the public with those rules. A writer of text-books is required to submit twenty copies of a text-book to the Committee. This all writers of text-books always gladly do. And although the Committee does not divulge the names of its members, a writer of text-books can easily ascertain them.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

18. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 11th September writes that the Barisal

BIKASH,
Sept. 11th, 1900.

Municipal complaints.

Municipality should number the houses and name the lanes and streets in the town. Signboards bearing the names of the roads should be posted for the guidance of the public.

The Barisal Municipality has ordered the cutting down of all trees along with the clearing of the jungle. This has led to the destruction of even fruit and other valuable trees.

19. The *Murshidabad Hataishi* [Murshidabad] of the 12th September com-

MURSHIDABAD
HATAISHI,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

A complaint against a pound-
keeper.

plains that the pound-keeper of the Sujaganj pound in Berhampore exacted a fine of four annas and feeding charge one anna and-a-half on account of a calf belonging to Babu Prakas Chandra Dhar, of Khagra Bazar, whilst he ought to have realised a total amount of only three annas as fine and feeding charge. In the receipt which was given on a bit of paper, the calf was described as a bull, and there was no signature either of the pound-keeper or any of his subordinates. The oppressions of this pound-keeper ought to be checked.

20. The same paper says that in previous years the District Board used

MURSHIDABAD,
HATAISHI.

A ferry ghat complaint.

to keep a boat at the *mohana* of the Kati Ganga, which is flooded in the rainy season, and ferried passengers free of charge. But this year it has leased out the ferry ghât. As most of the people who are ferried at this ghât are poor day-labourers, payment of two pice at the ferry ghât every day causes them great hardship. The Board may keep a boat tied to the two banks with cords, without any boatman.

This will cost the Board nothing, and will serve the purpose of the passengers. If this is not found convenient, a bamboo bridge ought to be constructed at this place. The District Board ought not to inconvenience the public for the sake of increasing its revenues by an insignificant amount.

SI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

21. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th September says that Mr. Lyall, Magistrate, 24-Parganas, recently inspected the North Barrackpore Municipality, and submitted a report sharply criticising its working. He found that the municipal authorities exercise no supervision over the collection of rates, and that, in consequence, not more than Rs. 600 out of a total assessed rate of Rs. 4,000 is collected. The report also speaks of the existence of *daladali* among the Commissioners.

There is a class of men in this country who do their best to secure high posts, but when they have got them, they do not care to discharge the duties of the posts properly. Babu Surendranath Banerji had left no stone unturned to get the Chairmanship of the North Barrackpore Municipality, but when trying for it, he did not in the least consider whether he would be able to spare time enough to discharge the duties of the post. As a matter of fact, he can spare very little time, after discharging his duties in connection with his college and the editorship of the *Bengalee* newspaper, to devote to his honorary duties in the North Barrackpore Municipality. All his duties there, therefore, devolve upon the Vice-Chairman, Babu Bhuvan Chandra Sen, who, though a competent man, cannot on account of his age work as hard as he used to do before. The result has been that all the municipal employes have grown lax and negligent for want of control and supervision. Babu Surendranath should retire from the Chairmanship if he has no time to devote to its duties.

At the election before the last, failing to get support from any other ward, Surendra Babu sought the help of a Commissioner of Ichapore. But this gentleman, too, failed to secure votes for him. As a last resource, a trick was resorted to. Both that gentleman and Surendra Babu stood as candidates, and the former having gained most of the votes for himself, withdrew his candidature. The result was Surendra Babu's election without contest. Immediately after this election, Surendra Babu held out large promises to the rate-payers of Ichapur. But before long, he forgot them, and whenever a rate-payer came to represent anything to him, he told him that he had no time to attend to such matters. At the last election, the Ichapur rate-payers took care not to vote for Babu Surendranath, and the latter sought the help of Babu Chandra Kumar Niyogi, of Dhitara. But fortunately for him no candidate was forthcoming from his own ward, and he got elected there. People smiled to see a man like him hankering so eagerly after a mere Commissionership of a rural municipality.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 14th, 1900.

22. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 14th September has the following:—

The Calcutta Municipality. The Calcutta Municipality, as newly constituted, seems to possess very little efficiency, and is practically out of gear, thereby causing great inconvenience to the tax-payers. It now appears that the old order of things was much better than the new order, and the absence of independent and spirited Commissioners of the stamp of Babu Nalin Bihari Sarkar, on the Municipal Board, is now being strongly felt. It is the tax-payer's money which is feeding the municipal employes, high and low, and it is certainly unjust that the tax-payers should be harassed and inconvenienced by them.

The condition of the Calcutta streets is, indeed, deplorable. Go to the native wards during the rainy season, and the correctness of this statement will be proved. Roads badly out of repair, filth accumulating on the roads, overpowering stinks here and there; all these are indications that there is nothing like a municipality in Calcutta. The Health Officer is supremely indifferent, and never takes his subordinates to task. If a tax-payer reports against an Inspector or an Overseer, the offending municipal officers take to harassing and persecuting the complaining rate-payer. Formerly the Ward Commissioners used to bring ward grievances to the notice of the Chairman and take him round their respective wards. This is no longer the case

The conservancy of the town is in a most deplorable plight. The authorities attribute this to the paucity of bullocks for the drawing of conservancy carts. But is this true? The night-soil is not also regularly removed and the privies are not regularly and properly served. The Ward Inspectors are never found to inspect the wards. A fatal typhoid case, which lately took place in Ward No. IX, is ascribed to a stinking privy in the house, not properly served.

The municipal expenditure is increasing, but not municipal efficiency. The Municipal Office is filled with high-paid officers—the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Health Officer, the Accountant, and so forth. But what are they doing? The Committee members are only for their fees. The *apke-waste* members used to serve the tax-payers better. Mr. Bright is an able officer, but lately, owing to ill-health, he could not attend to work. Mr. Greer, who officiated for him for some time, very well served the rate payers. The Deputy Chairman is also a very able officer. All that is now needed to increase the efficiency of Calcutta municipal administration is an able Chairman.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

23. A correspondent of the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th September says that the recent writings of this paper regarding the condition of the Khas Mahal raiyats in Midnapore having awakened the Public Works Department from its sleep, its employes have busied themselves in taking the levels of the canals and the lands on either side of them. But while doing this, they have brought some raiyats into trouble. When settling the lands on the banks of the canals—Baroj, Itabaria and others,—years ago, Government fixed no rent on the lands, which were lying waste at the time, and said that if they were brought under cultivation, Government would assess no rent upon them till the next settlement and assess them at reduced rates of rent at that settlement. Thus tempted, the cultivators spared no pains and money in making these lands cultivable by erecting embankments to protect them from floods and in bringing them under cultivation. In the meantime, Government issued a notification No. 366 (Public Works Department), dated the 29th October 1882, prohibiting the construction of new embankments and the extension of old ones within certain distances from the edges of certain rivers in the Balasore and Midnapore districts. The Collector of Midnapore, however, permitted the repair of old embankments, as he saw that otherwise the Government revenue would suffer. The above notification with all its subsequent amendments has never been enforced. Nor has any rule been ever laid down as to the distance which must be kept between a canal and the nearest embankment on either side. The raiyats, therefore, never hesitated to encroach upon lands on the banks of rivers and canals, and the action of the Public Works Department in now suddenly calling upon them to remove the embankments and in prosecuting those who are failing to do so within the period fixed in the notice has been causing much loss and hardship to them. The raiyats ought, at least, to receive compensation for the lands which are being taken from them.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

24. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 7th September complains that the road from Fujilpur to Kararia Bazar in the Fenny subdivision of the Noakhali district is in a very bad condition. It has not been repaired for a very long time, and the members of the District and the Local Boards are deaf to the prayers of the village people. Most of these members are not local men, and they are blind to the inconveniences of the local public.

SANSODHINI,
Sept. 7th, 1900.

25. A correspondent of the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 11th September says that since the road on the south bank of the ferry ghât at Puratan Bazar, Chandpur town, Tippera district, leading eastward from the ghât, was encroached upon by the river, people used the road passing by the side

PRATINIDHI,
Sept. 11th 1900.

A bad road in the Noakhali district.

A road closed against public traffic.

of Amjod Patari's godown (now occupied by a European trader in jute). But this road, too, has been lately closed, and great inconvenience is being caused to the public. Even police constables are not allowed to cross this road in their night patrols. The Subdivisional Officer ought to look to the matter.

KHULNA,
Sept. 13th, 1900.

26. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 13th September says that though the District Board of Khulna every year sanctions money for the repair of the road between Bagerhat and Chitalmari, the portion of the road between the ninth mile post and the Chitalmari Bazar becomes impassable in the rainy season.

The Board should construct two bridges: one over the *khal* which drains and irrigates the rice-fields in village Brahmagati near the twelfth mile post on the above road, and another over the *khal* which flows out of the river Chitra near Chitalmari. It is true the District Board has no road on the side of the latter *khal* opposite to Chitalmari, but a bridge is, nevertheless, necessary, as a very large number of people have every day occasion to cross it.

JYOTI,
Sept. 13th, 1900.

A complaint against the Assam-Bengal Railway.

27. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th September complains that the intermediate class carriages on the Assam-Bengal Railway are no better than the third class carriages. In fact, they are merely third class carriages differently painted. The number of such carriages is small, and there is always an over crowding. No return tickets are issued for these carriages. Why should passengers pay intermediate fares for such carriages? It is a regret that the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities should be so sadly indifferent to the convenience of passengers.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 13th, 1900.

Railway complaints.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th September complains that great inconvenience is caused to the passengers by the low platform at the Baliaghata station and by the unsheltered condition of the platforms at many other stations on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. At the Mugrahat station on the same railway, there was so long no fencing on the bank of the Mugrahat *khal*. The fencing that has now been put up is causing great inconvenience, especially to female passengers, who have to get into a *donga* or boat. The flight of stairs leading to the railway bridge across the line are steep, and it is a great risk to use them. It is hoped that the railway authorities will remove this inconvenience as well as have a landing-place constructed on the bank of the canal for the convenience of the passengers.

PRATIVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1900.

A railway complaint.

29. A correspondent complains in the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th September of the want of waiting accommodation and of irregularity and unpunctuality in the running of trains on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

(h)—General.

PRABHAT,
Sept. 12th, 1900.

30. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 12th September has the following:—

Mr. K. G. Gupta's rumoured appointment to a Commissionership.

It is said that Mr. K. G. Gupta will be appointed Commissioner of the Chittagong Division. We have no doubt that justice is not done to the Bengali Civilians. Mr. K. G. Gupta discharged the duties of a District Magistrate with great ability, but he has been shelved as an Excise Commissioner, and junior Civilians have been promoted to Commissionerships over his head. For what fault has Mr. K. G. Gupta's claim to a Commissionership been so long ignored? There can be but one answer to this question. It will be a pleasure if the Government appoints him to a Commissionership even now. The number of Native Civilians is not so small that their claims can be long and indefinitely ignored.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 13th, 1900.

The Collector of Calcutta.

31. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 13th September publishes the following from a correspondent in reply to the *Anusandhan's* contradiction (*vide* Report on Native Papers, 1st September 1900, paragraph 39) of what was published in one of its previous issues (*vide* Report on Native Papers, 25th August 1900, paragraph 39):—

It seems to be the first and foremost care of Rai Durgagati Banerji Bahadur to increase the pay of his Head Clerk, Babu Sasibhusan Banerji, and

his Nazir, Babu Atul Krishna Basu. No one can have any objection to the Collector's desire to increase the salaries of these two officers, but it is surely objectionable that he should do so by disappointing other deserving employes. When the Rai Bahadur was the Personal Assistant of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, Sasi Babu was the Head Clerk. As soon as he was promoted to the Calcutta Collectorship, he managed to have Sasi Babu transferred to his office. Sasi Babu soon became a great favourite of his, and the Collector repeatedly applied to the Excise Commissioner for the enhancement of Sasi Babu's pay. But Mr. K. G. Gupta turned a deaf ear to all such prayers. But an opportunity soon presented itself to the Collector for enhancing his favourite's salary. A post of the value of Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 per month had long remained vacant in the office, and the pay attached to this post was being distributed among the clerks who were doing the duties of the post. The Collector wrote to the Government for the abolition of this post and for the enhancement of Sasi Babu's pay, as he was doing the duties of this post in addition to his own duties. The Government partially accepted his proposal and granted Sasi Babu a personal allowance of Rs. 50 a month. Sasi Babu is now drawing Rs. 225 per month.

But the Collector is not satisfied with this, and he is determined to increase Sasi Babu's pay to Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 a month. The post of Accountant in the office is soon going to fall vacant. The Collector has made a proposal to the Government through the Presidency Commissioner, recommending the reduction of the Accountant's pay from Rs. 175 to Rs. 90 to Rs. 125 per month, and the utilisation of the balance in enhancing Sasi Babu's pay to Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 per month. We fail to understand why the Head Clerk of the office of the Calcutta Collector should be paid Rs. 300, while the Head Clerk in the office of a Divisional Commissioner does not draw more than Rs. 120 to Rs. 200 per month, and the office of the Inspector-General of Registration is well served by a Head Clerk drawing Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 a month. It is hoped that the Government will not sanction this proposal; for to sanction such a preposterous proposal will be to do great injustice to the office.

The Nazir, Babu Atul Krishna Basu, is drawing twice as much pay as some office Assistants, who are better qualified and are serving in the office as long as he. Babu Nagendra Nath Chaudhuri, a nephew of Babu Romanath Ghosh, of Pathuriaghatta, who was a petty pleader's clerk, has been appointed Assistant Stamp Superintendent on a pay of Rs. 200 per month. Babu Sarat Chandra Mitra, son of Babu Nabin Chandra Mitra, a retired Deputy Magistrate, has been appointed an Excise Sub-Inspector, while the claims of Babus Gopal Chandra Ghosh and Hari Mohan Gosain, who have passed the F. A. Examination and have long been serving in the office, have been ignored.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

32. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th September writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon's proposed visit to Travancore.

Lord Curzon is going to pay a visit to Travancore and the Travancore Durbar has sanctioned an expenditure of five lakhs for giving him a right royal reception. So, this waste of five lakhs on account of the Viceroy's reception is to be considered as no waste! The ink with which the circular expressing strong disapproval of the prodigality of Native Chiefs was indited by Lord Curzon is not yet dry. Will Lord Curzon approve of this waste? Let there be a consistency between his conduct and his opinion. Let him set an example of economy to the Native Chiefs. Upon the Viceroy's conduct depends the value of his advice and the ideal which he has placed before the Native Chiefs.

PRATIVASI,
Sept. 17th, 1900.

33. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 17th September says that the

Travel by Native Chiefs.

Gaekwar of Baroda went to visit Europe because Indian climate did not suit his wife's health. Lord Curzon advised him not to go to Europe, because his subjects were starving on account of the famine. Lord Curzon ought also to remonstrate with those Native Chiefs who are going to China, because their service in the Chinese war is not likely to prove very valuable.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 17th, 1900.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

JYOTI,
Sept. 13th, 1900.

34. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 13th September complains that owing to want of rain the crop prospects in Chittagong are gloomy. There is also an unprecedentedly high cattle mortality in the district.

HITAKARI,
Sept. 16th, 1900.

35. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 16th September writes that the jute prospects in the Nadia district are not hopeful. There would have been a bumper crop if there had been timely rains. But want of rain has done great injury to the crop. The recent rains have, however, improved the prospects of the *awan* rice crop; but the *aus* crop has not been satisfactory.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Aug. 29th, 1900.

36. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini*, [Bamra] of the 29th August is glad to find that a merchant, by name Birchand Dipchand, of Bombay, has advanced cotton thread to the value of Rs. 25,000 to the poor and famished weavers of that Presidency, on condition that he will purchase all the clothes made thereof at the bazar rate, paying the weavers their price minus the price of the thread supplied beforehand. The writer observes that this is a nice arrangement, combining, as it does, benevolence and business, which needs encouragement in every part of the country.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,

37. The same paper finds that the school hours, as at present fixed, namely, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., are extremely inconvenient, and suggests that the school authorities should see whether the hours 12 noon to 5 P.M. are not best suited to all needs.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

38. The same paper regrets to learn that the Syndicate of the Calcutta University have refused to recognise Uriya as one of the languages on which composition-papers are set in the F. A. and B. A. examinations of that University in the face of the facts that the Madras University recognises Uriya as a second language in those examinations; that Uriya is spoken by a large population and has a literature of its own; and that Uriya is recognised as a Court language. The writer, therefore, strongly supports the petition of the students of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, which they have submitted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on the subject, and hopes that all the Associations of Orissa will do the same.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 5th, 1900.

39. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th September is glad to learn that, notwithstanding the deterioration of the silk industry in Bengal, an exhibitor from that Province has been able to secure the first prize in silk in the late Paris Exhibition, and observes that the people of Bengal should take courage and continue that industry with skill and patience.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

40. All the native papers of Orissa speak highly of the father of Lord Curzon, and notice with gratitude his personal efforts to collect Rs. 30,000 and remit the same to India for the benefit of the famine-stricken.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

41. The same paper approves of the circular of the Government of India, prohibiting the Native Chiefs and Princes of India from visiting Europe without the special sanction of that Government. The writer does not see any particular necessity for these expensive foreign journeys.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

42. The same paper supports the contention of its contemporary of the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* that the manufacture of salt is necessary in Parikud in Puri, in order to save a large number of men and women from the jaws of an ever-recurring famine. The writer is unable to appreciate the force

Salt manufacture in Parikud, as
a famine preventive.

of departmental and technical reasons, adduced by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at Balasore, in favour of the abolition of the salt manufacture in Orissa, when the manufacture of that important article of food is calculated to save a good many souls from sure death by giving them means whereby to purchase food.

43. The same paper regrets to notice the inconvenience of the public on account of the breach in the railway line between Balasore and Baripada road stations of the Orissa branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The writer further finds that the terrible accident, which was reported in a late issue, has made the natives of Orissa very fearful of railway journey.

A breach on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 5th, 1900.

44. The *Samvadvaika* [Balasore] of the 6th September notices the journey of Maharaja Sir Protap Sing Bahadur of Jodhpur and his troops from India to China with great pleasure, and hopes that the Maharaja will add to the fame of the ever-renowned Rajputana by his brilliant achievements. The *Utkaldipika* of the 8th September holds a similar opinion and adds that this is the best way of showing loyalty to the Queen-Empress.

The Maharaja of Jodhpur's expedition to China.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Sept. 6th, 1900.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Sept. 8th, 1900.

45. All the native papers of Orissa approve of the action of Lord Curzon in dethroning the Maharaja of Bharatpur and placing his minor son on the *gadi*. They hope that other Indian princes will derive a lesson from this change, and try, by all means, to walk on the path of rectitude and justice.

The Bharatpur deposition.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
UTKALDIPIKA.

46. Referring to the infliction of capital punishment on 20 out of 21 accused in the Cawnpore riot case, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 8th September observes that the administration of justice assumes a vindictive character that is not at all desirable. The writer does not remember that so many men were hanged in any other case in the past history of the criminal administration of India. The writer objects, in the same way, to the infliction of capital punishment on the 10 accused in the Agra dacoity case, and observes that the terrible character of the punishment is a sad comment on the administration of criminal justice in India by the British.

The Cawnpore sentence.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Sept. 8th, 1900.

47. The same paper is glad to learn that a Commission will sit to enquire into the land assessment of the Western Presidency and the mode by which land revenue is realised from the landed interest, and adds that the Commission should extend their operations to the whole of India, for the complaint of heavy assessment and of cruel sale-law is to be found more or less everywhere except in the permanently-settled estates in India.

The proposed Commission to enquire into the land assessment of the Western Presidency.

UTKALDIPIKA.

48. The same paper regrets to notice the death of Kumar Harihar Nath Pandit, the only son-and-heir of the late Raja Baidyanath Pandit Bahadur, of Darpan, who died at an early age of twenty-two, leaving a newly-married widow behind him.

The death of Kumar Harihar Nath Pandit.

UTKALDIPIKA.

49. Referring to the abolition of the infliction of fine on clerks by their superior officers, the same paper points out that the result of the change has been far from desirable, as many suspensions and dismissals have, if the *Pioneer* is to be believed, followed, which would not have been possible under the old state of things. The writer advises that the fine system may be preserved with this limitation that in no case should any fine exceed one-fourth of the amount of monthly pay drawn by the person on whom the fine is imposed.

The circular prohibiting the fining of clerks in Government offices.

UTKALDIPIKA.

50. The same paper draws the attention of the District Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police, Balasore, to the conduct of a Police constable, Ramananda Pande, who brought a criminal case against Munshi Abdul Barik, of Bhadrak, that was tried by Maulvi Abdul Malik, Deputy Magistrate of Balasore, and was disposed of without even a charge being drawn up against the accused.

A complaint by a Police constable dismissed.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Sept. 8th, 1900.

51. Referring to the dispossession of the *sarbarakar* of mauza Bhaskarpur, in mahal Kaidar, in pargana Banchas, in district Balasore, by his landlords through the instrumentality of the Collector of Balasore for arrears of rent, the same paper points out that the *sarbarakar* is entitled to *malikana* so long as his tenure is under the *khas* management of his landlords. The writer adds that the sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which provide for the sale of tenures for arrears of rent, should be extended to Orissa.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 22nd September, 1900.